

REMARKS

Corrections to the Drawings and Specification

The corrections to the specification and drawings were made so that the description in the specification properly referenced the elements of the invention depicted in Fig. 3. The amendments do not add any new matter.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

a.) Rejection of claims 64-66 and 71-81 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gaffney (WO 97/16834) in view of the discussion of the prior art in the instant specification:

Applicants note that significant differences exist between Gaffney and the invention described in the pending application. Gaffney is trying to solve a different problem than the subject application. Gaffney has designed a device to sense pressure and not to specifically create a detailed image that can be used for identification. Gaffney does not teach or suggest that the system can be used to generate an image for purposes of identification. In order to create an image for identification as noted in the pending application the variation in the current over the resistive layer must be fine enough to create the image. The specification notes that in order to create a fine enough current variation over the entire surface of the variable resistive layer that it was necessary to embed conductive particles in a non-resistive material and that the conductive particles be smaller than the element desired to be imaged (page14 line 8 to page 15 line 3). Neither Gaffney by itself or in combination with any prior art teach or even suggest the problem or its solution. Accordingly, applicants have amended claims 64, 78, 79, 80 and 81 and added claims 97 to 111 to point out this aspect of the invention.

b.) Rejection of claims 67-70 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gaffney (WO 97/16834) in view of the discussion of prior art in the instant specification s applied to claim 64 above, and further in view of Iwata et al JP 402126381A (the English Abstract

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and Drawing figures of JP 402126381A):

The argument set forth above at REMARKS a.) above are repeated herein as if set forth herein at length. Additionally, Iwata et al. works in a fashion different that the subject invention in that it appears to require the object to be imaged to form part of the circuit. Also, Iwata is non-enabling in that it lacks sufficient description as to how it functions and thus is not a valid prior art reference.

Conclusion

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration of the matter. Claims 64 and 81 and new claims 97 to 111 are now pending in this application. Based on the above amendments and arguments Applicants believe that the claims as now pending are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 64 to 81 as amended and new claims 97 to 111 and that these claims be allowed.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, or if it is felt that a telephone conversation can resolve any issues the undersigned would appreciate a call at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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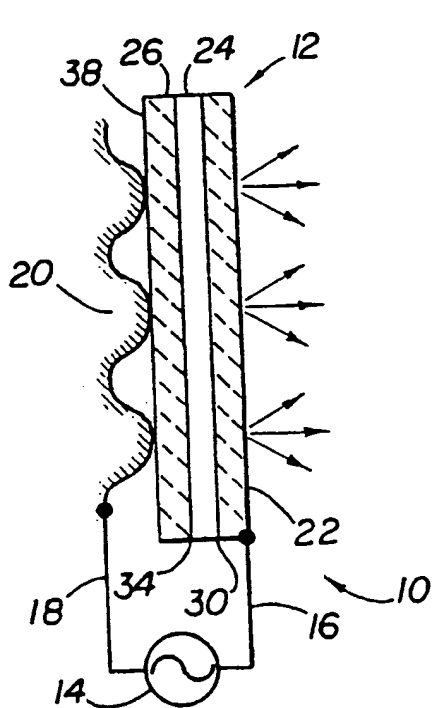


FIG 1

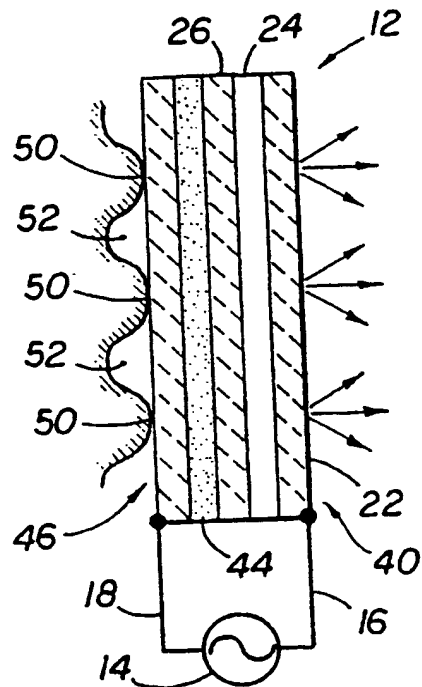


FIG 2

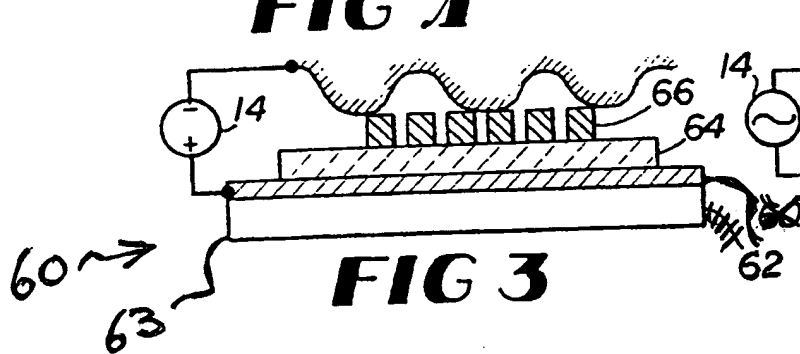


FIG 3

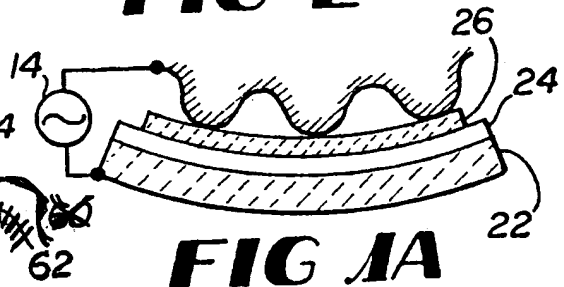


FIG 1A

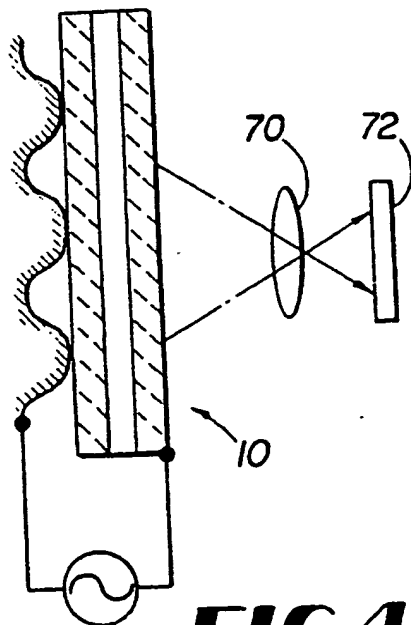


FIG 4

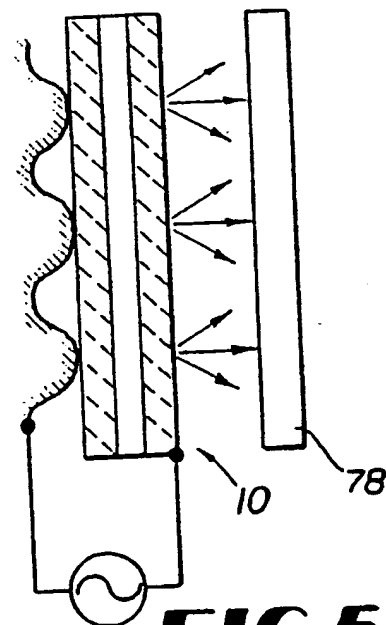


FIG 5

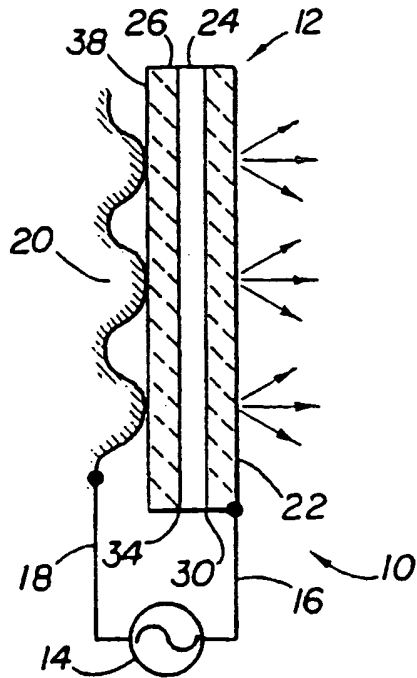


FIG 1

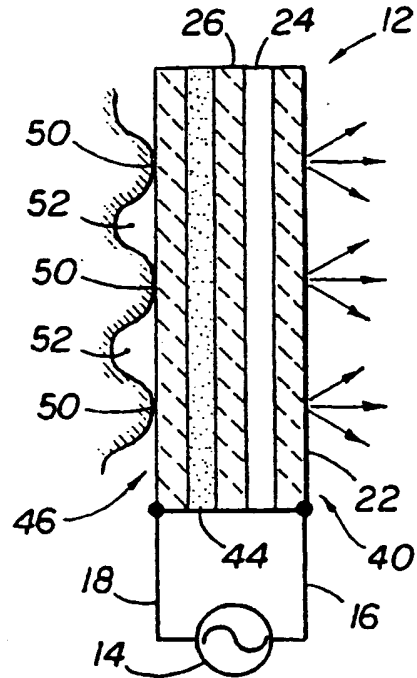


FIG 2

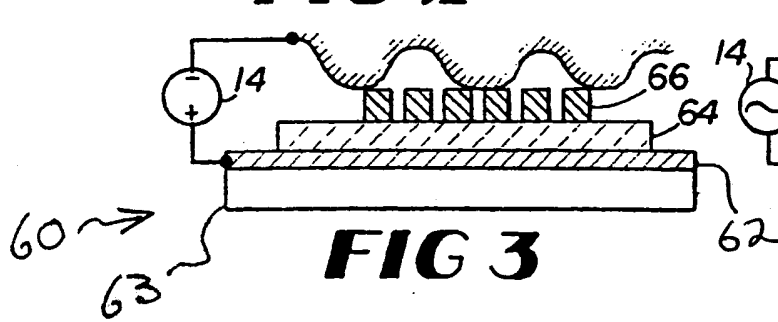


FIG 3



FIG 1A

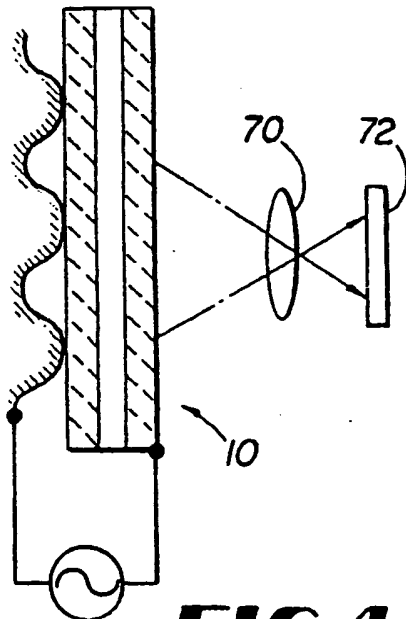


FIG 4

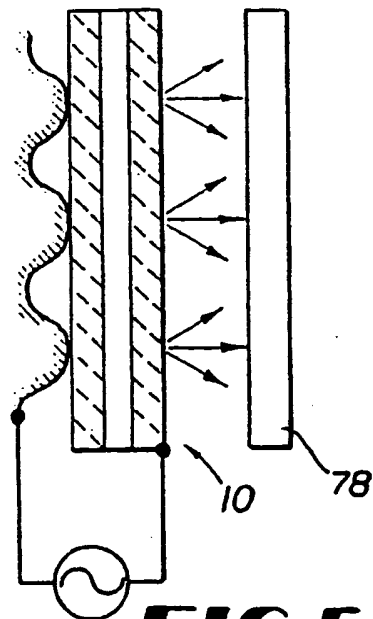


FIG 5